

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly,
OF THE
C H U R C H
OF
SCOTLAND;

Conveened at *Edinburgh* February 19. 1701.

Collected and Extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.



EDINBURGH,

Printed by *George Mosman*, Printer to this CHURCH and Its
ASSEMBLIES. M. DCCL.

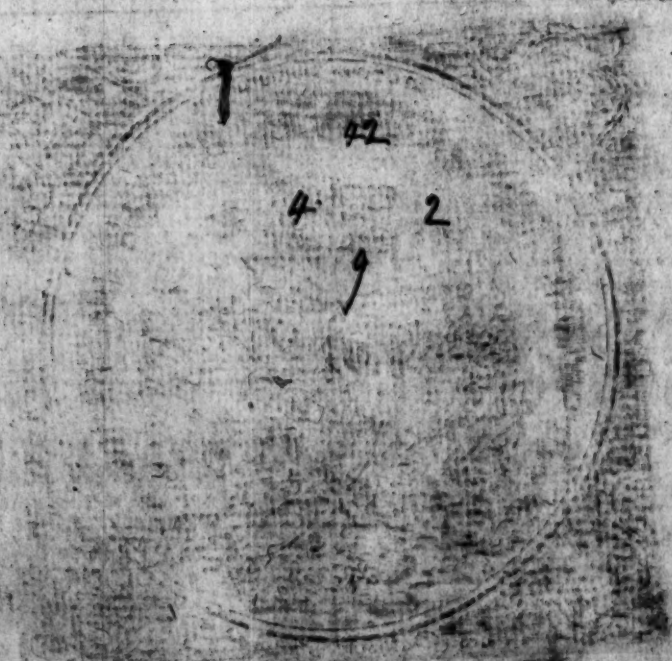
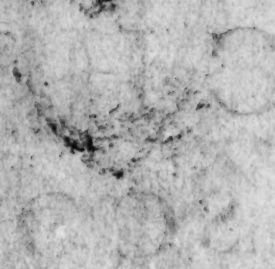


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THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
 OF THE
General Assembly,
 OF THE
CHURCH
 OF
SCOTLAND;

Holden and Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 19 day of *February*,
 And ending the 10 day of *March* 1701.

I.

The Recording of His Majestie's Commission, to William Earl of Annandale, for Representing . His Majesties Royal Person, in this Assembly.

At *Edinburgh*, 19 *February*, 1701. Sess. 1.



HIS Day, the General Assembly of the Ministers and Elders of this National Church, being convened and constitute, there was produced to them, by a Noble Lord, *William Earle of Annandale*, His Majesties Commission under the Great Seal of this Kingdom, Nominating and Appointing him, to be *His Majesties High Commissioner*, and Representative in this *National Assembly*; which was publickly Read in their Audience, with all due Honour and Respect; And appointed to be Recorded, in the Registers of this Assembly: Therein to remain, *ad futuram Rei Memoriam*. The Tenor whereof follows.

A 2

GULIELMUS

The ACTS of the

“**G**ULIELMUS, Dei Gratia, Magnæ Britannia, Franciæ, &
 “*Hiberniæ* Rex, Fideique Defensor, *Omnibus* Probis Homi-
 “nibus, ad quos præsentēs Literæ nostræ pervenerint, *Salutem*;
 “Quandoquidem, Ex Decreto nostro, Generalis *Ecclesiæ* Con-
 “ventus Antiquioris Regni nostri *Scotiæ*, In *decimum nonum*
 “*Diem* Mensis *Februarii*, Anno Domini, Millesimo Septin-
 “gentesimo & Primo Continuatus erat; Nosque autem a-
 “bunde Cupidi, Quin etiam necessarium esse Judicantes, in
 “commodum dictæ Ecclesiæ, ut idem Generalis Convētus
 “die statuto debite observetur: Sed Rebus magni momen-
 “ti nos alio vocantibus, dicto convētui interesse nequimus;
 “Cumque Testimoniis permultis & probatis abunde nobis sa-
 “tisfactum sit, de præclaris animi dotibus & fide eximia,
 “fidelissimi & prædilectissimi nostri Consanguinei & con-
 “ciliarii, *Gulielmi* Comitis de *Annandale*, Quod ad mune-
 “ra Summi Officii inframentationati rite exercenda & obeun-
 “da, in finem supra expressum usquequaque est idoneus:
 “Noveritis igitur nos nominasse & constituisse, sicuti per has-
 “ce nostras patentes Literas, *Nominamus & Constituimus*,
 “eundem *Gulielmum* Comitem de *Annandale*, Supremum no-
 “strum *Commissionarium*, quoad effectum infra mentionatum:
 “*Damus* pariter & *Concedimus* Illi, Sacram nostram Personam,
 “& Authoritatem nostram Regalem Repræsentandi, præ-
 “sentiam nostram supplendi, locumque nostrum, in dicto
 “subsequenti Generali Convētu, tanquam *Commissionario*
 “nostro in hunc effectum specialiter constituto, Tenendi;
 “Omniaque alia, ad Imperium & Munus *Commissionarii*,
 “pro Generali Ecclesiæ Convētu peragendi, tam plena-
 “deoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius,
 “eiusdem supremi muneris & Characteris fecerat, seu quo-
 “vis tempore retroacto facere poterat; Atque sicuti nos ipsi
 “personaliter præsentēs, facere poterimus, plenissimam & am-
 “plissimam nostram potestatem & Commissionem. *Quaqui-*
 “*dem* omnia & singula, a dicto *Gulielmo* Comite de *Annandale*,
 “in hac nostra Commissionē prosequenda, legitime fa-
 “cienda, nos firmiter Approbamus, Rata habemus, & habi-
 “turi sumus. *Omnibus & Singulis* insuper, antedicti Con-
 “ventus & Ecclesiæ Pastoribus & Presbyteris, & cæteris
 “quibuscunque hujus nostri Regni subditis, cujuscunque
 “qualitatis & conditionis, ut dictum *Gulielmum* Comitem de
 “*Annandale*, tanquam supremum nostrum *Commissionari-*
 “*um*, quoad effectum & modum supræmentionatum, Ag-
 “noscant Revereantur & dicto ipsius audientes, se præbe-
 “ant, stricte Mandamus & Imperamus. *Ac denique*, hanc
 “nostram Commissionem, a die quo magnum hujus Regni
 “nostri Sigillum, præsentibus est appensum, & deinceps
 “hac Sessione sequenti Generalis Convētus antedicti, in vi-
 gore

General Assembly, 1701.

“vigore continuare declaravimus, & per præsentēs declara-
mus; Saltem utque dum a nobis revocabitur. *In cujus*
Rei Testimonium, magnum Sigillum nostrum, præsentibus
“appendi præcepimus, *Apud Aulam nostram de Kensington,*
“Septimo die Mensis *Februarii*, Anno Domini, Millesimo
“Septingentesimo Primo, & Anno Regni nostri Duodecimo.

Per Signaturam Manu S. D. N. Regis supersignatum.

{ Locus
Sigilli
Appensi }

In DORSO.

*Written to the Great Seal and Re-
gistrat the eighteen day of Fe-
bruary 1701. Sic Subscribitur*
Charles Ker

Sealed at Edinburgh, the
eighteen day of February
1701. Sic Subscribitur
Al. Home.

11.

His MAJESTIE'S Gracious LETTER;
TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Eadem Sessione.

THE which Day, His Majestie's High Commis-
sioner presented His Majesties most Gracious Let-
ter, directed to this *General Assembly*, which was
publickly Read in their Hearing, with all due Honour and
Respect, and appointed to be Recorded in the Registers of
this Assembly, the Tenor whereof follows.

B

WILLIAM R

WILLIAM R.

RIGHT Reverend and well Beloved, we Greet You well. The Proofs we have had of Your Affection, to our Person and Government, and of Your Good Conduct, and Management in the Last and former Assemblies, gives us full Confidence of your meeting at this time, in the same Good Disposition: We think it not necessary on this Occasion, to Repeat the Assurances we have often given you, of our Resolution to maintain the Government of the Church, as it is now established; Not doubting, but you are sufficiently convinced of it: As also of our Readiness to countenance and protect you, in your Endeavours to preserve the Purity of the Christian Doctrine, to promote Piety, and Settle Good Order, in the Church. We have thought fit to appoint our right Trusty, and Entirely Beloved Cousin and Councillor, *William Earl of Annandale*, to Represent our Royal Person in this Assembly, whose Abilities and Fitness to Discharge this Trust, will (we doubt not) render him acceptable unto you: Him we have fully Instructed, in what may be further necessary; And therefore, you may give him entire Trust, and Credit. So Recommending to you, calmness and unanimity in your Proceedings, and the avoiding unseasonable Questions and Debates, which you must be sensible, may be of bad consequence in this Juncture, We bid you Heartily Farewell.

Given at our Court at Kensington, the 7th Day of February 1701. And of our Reign the 12 Year.

By His Majestie's Command,

RO: PRINGLE.

*To the Right Reverend and well Beloved,
The Moderator, Ministers, and Elders,
of the General Assembly, of the
Church of Scotland.*

III The

I I I.

The General Assemblies Answer,

T O

His Majestie's Gracious Letter.

At Edinburgh, 24 February 1701. *Ante Merid:*
Sess. 4.*May it please Your Majesty,*

THE renewed and repeated Evidences, of Your Majesties tender Care and Concern for this Church, so fully signified in Your Gracious Letter, have been received and entertained by us, with all Satisfaction and thankfull Acknowledgement. And we do further acknowledge the signal Proof we have lately had thereof, by Your Majestie's giving the Royal assent, in this last Session of of Parliament, to the Acts therein made for Ratifying and further confirming our Confession of Faith, and the present established Presbyterian Government of this Church, for the more effectual preventing of the Growth of Popery, and for suppressing Prophaneness and Immoralities; All which do lay a new Obligation on us, to endeavour the preserving of the Purity of the Christian Doctrine, the promoting of Piety, and the Settling of Good Order in the Church; which we acknowledge to be already our Duty, according to the Trust committed to us, by our Great Lord and Master Jesus Christ, the only head of this Church, and in doing whereof, Your Majesty is pleased to assure us of Your Royal Protection and Countenance. We are resolved, also by the Grace of God, and through his Strength, to observe that Calmness and Unanimity in our proceedings, which do so much become us in the Station wherein God has placed us, and which your Majesty recommends unto us, and to avoid unseasonable Questions and Debates, which we are all convinced and perswaded, would be a matter of bad and dangerous consequence at all times, and especially in this Juncture.

The Earl of Annandale, whom Your Majesty has made choice of, to Represent Your Royal Person, and to give

Countenance and Protection to this *Assembly*, Is for his Fitness and Abilities, As also for the Good Offices he has done this Church, in the other Honourable Stations, wherein he hath been employed under Your Majesty, very Acceptable.

Give us leave *Great Sir* to take notice, That the last *Assembly* having given Commission to some Ministers of their Number to travel to the most Nothren Parts of this Your Ancient Kingdom, the Islands of *Orkney* and *Zetland*, for Planting Churches and Advancing the Knowledge of God amongst that people; They have in a good Measure Executed the same: And we are sensible of the Favour of Your Majesty's Bounty, for promoteing so good and necessary a Work, and which we know will not be wanting to Advance and render it compleat.

That Your Majesty's *Reign* may be long and prosperous, that you may be Guided and Directed of God, in the Great and Weighty Affairs of Your Government, and that Your Councils and Undertakings may be still successful, for Preserving and Defending the Reformed Religion and the Protestant Interest, at Home and Abroad; Are the Earnest and Fervent Prayers of

May it please Your Majesty,

*Your Majesty's Most Faithful,
Most Obedient, and Most
Humble Subjects,*

*The Ministers, and Elders, met in this
National Assembly, of the Church of
Scotland.*

*Signed in Our Presence, in Our Name,
and at Our Appointment by,*

Tho: Wilkie Moderator.

IV. Act

IV.

Act anent the Overtures transmitted, by the last General Assembly to Presbyteries.

Eadem Sessione

THE General Assembly, taking to their Consideration, the three Printed Overtures transmitted by the last Assembly to the several Presbyteries; and finding by the Report of the Committee for Overtures, that there are not Reports sent in, but by a very few Presbyteries, and that only some of such as are sent Do approve *simpliciter* the saids three Overtures, So that it does not yet appear, that the more General Opinion of this Church agreeth thereto: Therefore the General Assembly Appointed the saids three Overtures to be again transmitted; *Likeas* they hereby *Transmit* the same, to the several Presbyteries within this National Church, and Appoints them to send in distinct Reports in Writt, of their Opinion thereanent, to the next General Assembly, and that the Reports be in Papers apart, under the Hand of the Moderator and Clerk of the Presbytery.

V.

Approbation of the Actings and Proceedings, of the Commission of the last General Assembly, appointed to meet at Edinburgh.

At Edinburgh, the 27 of February 1701,

Anse Meridiem, Sess. 8.

THE General Assembly, having had this Day reproduced in their Presence, the Register of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commissioners, appointed by the late General Assembly to meet at Edinburgh, and having heard the Report and Observes of a Committee of this Assemblies own Number (that were not Members of that Commission) appointed to Revise Examine and Consider the said Register, all the Members of the said Commission, (whereof the Moderator was one) were desired to remove, and Mr. James Hay being chosen Moderator *pro tempore*, It was desired by him, that if any persons had any Thing to Object against the Conduct or Proceedings of the said Commission, they might propose the same, And the Assembly having heard all that was represented to them thereanent;

ment; Together with the Answers made thereto, by the Moderator and other Members of the said Commission; And having seriously and maturely considered the same, and finding by the said Report, that the whole Actings, Proceedings and Conclusions of the said Commissioners, contained in the said Register, Subscribed by Mr. George Meldrum Moderator, and Nicol Spence Under-Clerk of the said Commission, beginning the 21. Day of February 1700 Years, and ending the 18 of February current, do evidence much Wisdom, Prudence, Diligence, and Faithfulness, and that the said Commission have proceeded orderly and formally in the things that came before them, according to their Commission and Instructions: Therefore this General Assembly by their Vote did, and hereby do Ratify and Approve the saids Actings, Proceedings and Conclusions of the saids Commissioners contained in the Register thereof, And the Members of the Commission being called in, the same was Intimate to them, and the Moderator gave them the Thanks of this Assembly, for their good Service, and then the Moderator of this Assembly took his Place.

V I.

Act anent the Supply of the North with Ministers and Probationers.

At Edinburgh the 4 day of March 1701.

Ante Meridiem, Sess. 13.

THE General Assembly taking to consideration that there are yet some Vacant Kirks in the North, did and hereby do Enact and Appoint, that four actual Ministers be sent in manner aftermentioned, for Supplying thereof, from the first of Aprile next, till the next General Assembly, Two whereof to be sent to the United Presbyteries of Dundee, Meegle, and Forfar, One to the United Presbyteries of Brechen and Aberbrothwick, and One to the Province of Murray, to be proportioned as follows. Viz: The Provincial Synod of Lowthian and Tweeddale to send One actual Minister quarterly, to supply the Province of Murray, the provincial Synod of Glasgow and Air to send One actual Minister quarterly, to supply the United Presbyteries of Dundee, Meegle, and Forfar; the provincial Synod of Fife to send One actual Minister quarterly, to supply the United Presbyteries of Brechen and Aberbrothwick, the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, with the Synod of Perth and Stirling to send One actual Minister quarterly, to Supply the United Presbyteries of Dundee Meegle and Forfar. Viz: Merse and Teviotdale for the first three Quarters, and Perth and Stirling

Stirling for the last Quarter; And because the foresaid Synods cannot now meet to send up the first three Moneths Supply timeously. Therefore the General Assembly do hereby appoint the said First three Months Supply to be made as follows. viz. By Mr. *Walter Allan* Minister at *Colington* for the Synod of *Lomthian* and *Tweeddale*, By Mr. *Francis Finlayson* Minister of *Kilmarnock*, for the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, By Mr. *Patrick Tullidelpb* Minister at *Ferrie Parion Craig*, for the Synod of *Fife*, And by Mr. *William Millar* Minister at *Churnside*, for the Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*. And Sikklike, the General Assembly do hereby Enact and Appoint that Seventeen Probationers be sent North, of which Two to the United Presbyteries of *Dundee Meegle* and *Forfar*, Two to the United Presbyteries of *Brechen* and *Aberbrothwick*, Four to the Province of *Murray*, Two of them having the *Irish Language*, Three to *Ross* and *Sutherland*, all of them having *Irish*, Three to *Cairness*, One to *Orkney*, and Two to *Zetland*: And it is hereby Declared, That the saids Probationers are to be sent on the same Terms, and with the same Encouragements given to Probationers, sent by former Assemblies and their Commissions: And what further relates to the Nomination and other Things requisite to this Mission of Probationers; The General Assembly Referrs the same to their subsequent Commission.

V I I.

Act disjoyning the Provincial Synod of Angus and Mearns, from the Synod of Aberdeen.

At Edinburgh, the 4 of March 1701,

Ante Meridiem, Sess. 13.

THE General Assembly having heard the Opinion of the Commission sent by the last Assembly, to the Provinces of *Angus*, *Mearns* and *Aberdeen*, anent the Affair aftermentioned: And finding that there are now a competent Number of Ministers legally Settled in the saids Provinces, do therefore Appoint them to meet in time coming in two distinct Synods, in their usual places of meeting, according to the Act of the General Assembly held in the Year 1638: Intituled *Act anent the Order of the Provincial Assemblies in Scotland*, according to the Presbyteries therein contained; And that the next meeting of the Synod of *Aberdeen*, be at the time and place appointed at their last Sederunt. And as to the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, the General Assembly does hereby appoint their first meeting to be at *Dundee* upon the third Tuesday of Aprile next, and that the Synods afternamed send the following Number of Ministers as Correspondents

pendents, to the Provincial Synod of Angus and Mearns. viz: The Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale Two, the Synod of Perth and Stirling Three, the Synod of Fife Four, and the Synod of Aberdeen Two, and this Correspondence to continue till the General Assembly shall see cause to alter it.

VIII.

Recommendation to Synods, anent maintaining Bursars of Theology having the Irish Language.

At Edinburgh, the 4 of March 1701,

Post Meridiem Sess. 14.

THE General Assembly taking to their Consideration The Great Scarcity of Probationers having the Irish Language, to Supply the Vacancies of the *North Highlands*; notwithstanding there are several Young Men who might be useful in these places, if they had due Encouragement to prosecute their Studies, Therefore the General Assembly Recommend to the Synods aftermentioned, that they maintain Bursars of Theologie having the *Irish Language*, besides the usual Presbytery Bursars, and that out of the Ministers of the saids Synods their own proper Money, and that this be done as follows. *Viz.* That the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, The Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, The Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, The Synod of *Argyle*, The Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, and the Synod of *Fife*, Each of them maintain One Bursar, the Synods of *Drumfries* and *Galloway* One, and the Synods of *Angus Mearns* and *Aberdeen* One: And it is Recommended to the forsaid Synods, to proportion the Quota of the Maintainance, to be given to the saids Bursars, among themselves, which is at Least to be Ten Pound Sterling, the one half whereof to be Collected and Advanced at every Synod, Beginning at the next ensuing Synod; And that the said Synod-Books bear an Account of their Diligence in the same, and that each of the saids Bursars continue four Years at the profession of Theology, as other Bursars do; And it is hereby Recommended to all Presbyteries that they search out for any such well Qualified Young Men, who have passed their Course of Philosophy at some University, and send in their Names to the Commission of the General Assembly, with sufficient Testimonials, That they may be by them Recommended to the said Synods, And the foresaid Act to continue dureing the Assemblies pleasure, And for enlarging of the said Funds, the General Assembly Renews and Revives the 9th Act of the General Assembly, 1699 Anent Planting of the Highlands. Act

I X.

*Act for a Solemn National Fast and Humiliation.**At Edinburgh the 4. of March 1701.*

Post Meridiem Sess. 14.

THE General Assembly of this National Church, laying seriously to Heart, the many Tokens of GOD's Displeasure, that are gone furth against this Land: As the many Years of Dearth and Scarcity that we have been under, whereby many have Perished, the Land greatly Impoverished, and the number of the Poor vastly Increased: The amazing and astonishing Rebukes against, and Blasting of the Undertaking of the *African* and *Indian* Company of this Nation, for advancing the Wealth and Trade thereof, and Relief of the Poor; and that in a great measure from the visible and immediat Hand of GOD, though by that Undertaking there was a fair prospect of spreading the Gospel amongst Infidels; together with the Loss of many of our Country-men, and even some of our dear and worthy Brethren in the Ministry, and of a great part of the Nations Treasure and Substance: As also the stupendious wasting Fire in the City of *Edinburgh*, whereby its best Buildings have been laid in Ashes, and many Families reduced to extremum Poverty; Considering also, the many sad and great Calamities, which threaten, not only this, but all other Reformed and Protestant Churches, from the present Alteration of the State of *Europe* so lately fallen out, whereby the Hands of the implacable Enemies of our Religion, seems to be greatly Strengthened, and Occasion given for Executing their Wicked Designs, in order to the Ruine of the Reformed Religion and Protestant Interest; By all which the Reformed and Protestant Churches every where, and more eminently in thir Nations, together with our Brethren in the *United Provinces of the Low Countries*, are sadly Threatened. And the *Assembly* considering, That our Holy and Gracious GOD doth not Afflict willingly, nor Grieve the Children of Men, nor doth He without Cause Threaten his People with such sad Things: We have therefore too good ground to infer, that our Sins must be great and hainous in the Sight of GOD, which is also obvious to every discerning Eye, the Land being filled with Wickedness and Abominations, Violences and Disorders amongst persons of all Ranks and Degrees, for whose Sins, our Holy and Jealous GOD may justly contend with us, which are so much the

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more aggravated, that they are against so many solemn repeated Vows and Engagements unto, and Covenants with our GOD, which have been openly Violated and Broken by persons of all Ranks, and treated with publick Contempt, Indignities and Affronts, the particulars are too many to be here insert: But having been by other Assemblies largely and particularly Enumerat in Causes of *Fasts*, by them emitted, especially 1690 and 1700. This Assembly thereto refers, in so far as they quadrat with our present Circumstances, and Recommend to Ministers to give an account of the same: Yet one thing farder is greatly to be Lamented, That though the LORD hath been for many Years calling to Weeping and to Mourning, and Publick National *Fasts* have been from time to time appointed, that we might truly humble our selves before GOD, Confess our Sins, repent of and turn from them, by renewing our Engagements unto GOD, and Covenanting with him for that end, yet the most part have instead thereof, given themselves over to Jollity and Wantonness, few having Fasted unto the LORD, and Returned to him with all their Hearts.

Upon all these Considerations, This Assembly have thought fit, to set Apart a Day for Solemn Fasting and Humiliation, and the Exercise of sincere and unfeigned Repentance, and for Serious Fervent and Earnest Prayer to the Throne of Grace; which they appoint to be kept upon the Twenty Fourth Day of *April* next to come, being the last *Thursday* of the said Month: And do hereby earnestly Obtest, and in the Bowels of our Lord *Jesus Christ*, Exhort and Beseech all People, and of all Ranks, suitably to Prepare themselves for so Solemn a Work, to deal unfeignedly and sincerely with the LORD in this Matter, to put away the Evil of their Doings, and flee in to *Christ*, the Mediator of the New Covenant, and seek in and through Him to be Reconciled unto GOD, to take on sincere Resolutions and Engagements, that hence-furth they will be the LORD's, humbly depending upon him for Grace to perform accordingly, that they may earnestly and vigourously set about sincere and thorow Reformation of their Lives, as they would themselves find Mercy in the day of the LORD, and have the present Strokes upon the Land removed, and Judgments threatened Averted. And for that end, we Recommend to all Ministers within this Church, that they be Plain Full and Free, in holding furth the Evil of the Sins that Abound, according as they are Enumerat in the *Causes of Fasts* above-specified, and what Sins else may be peculiar to any Congregation, to the end, that they, and all who sincerely Love our Lord *Jesus Christ*, may earnestly apply to the Throne of Grace, that a Spirit of Grace and Supplication, and of sincere
and

and unfeigned Repentance may be poured out upon the Inhabitants of the Land, and for a day of the Mediators Power upon the Hearts of many, making them a willing People, that so they may flee to him, and make Application of his Blood for the purging and pardoning of their Sins. That the LORD would shine upon us in Gospel- Ordinances, and by the powerful enlivening breathings of His Spirit, make them more Successful for the Enlargement of the Kingdom of *Christ*, and Destroying Satans Kingdom, that in some places so much prevails, even by Witchcraft, Sorceries, &c. That of His great Bounty, and in pity and compassion to this poor Land, he would give seasonable Weather, and thereby prevent the return of Scarcity and Dearth, and that he would also avert the other sad and heavy Judgments which threaten us for our Sins. That the LORD would Deliver such of His poor Churches or People, as are already under the Feet of Cruel Enemies; and protect others that are in great and imminent Hazard: And for that end, break the power of their Enemies, make their wrath to Praise Him, Defeat their Counsels, and turn them into Foolishness, that all may know, that he whose Name alone is JEHOVAH, is the most High over all the Earth. That GOD would preserve and protect our King, bless him in his Person and Government, Animate him more and more with true Heroick Courage and Zeal for the Defence of the true Religion and Protestant Interest: That he would direct his Counsels, and these of other Protestant Princes and States, to such measures, as may at this Juncture be for the Glory of GOD, the Preservation of the True Religion and Protestant Churches, and the Peace of *Europe*. That Piety may flourish in this Land, and effectual ways may be fallen upon for that end; and both Magistrates, Ministers and others in their Stations animated vigorously to prosecute them, for suppressing the Sins and Immoralities that abound in the Land; and for Restraining Idleness and Vagabonds, being the Occasion and Nursery of much Sin and Wickedness, and for reducing these to Order, Labour and Industry, and supplying the Necessities of Indigents; and that this Church may yet prosper, both Peace and Truth still flourish in her, so as the LORD may yet take Delight in us, and Glory may Dwell in our Land, and have her Habitation there.

X.

Act Condemning the Book, Intituled, an Apology for M. Antonia Bourignon.

At Edinburgh, the 5th of March 1701.

Post Meridiem Sess. 15.

THE General Assembly taking to their serious Consideration, a Reference made by the Commission of the Late General Assembly sent to *Angus, Gearns, Aberdeen, &c.* Anent Doctor George Garden in *Aberdeen*, alledged to be the Author of a Book Intituled, *An Apology for M. Antonia Bourignon*, with an Abreviat made by the said Commission of the Errors contained in the said Book, They did Appoint a Committee of their own Number to Consider that Affair, and to compare the said Abbreviat with the foresaid Apology, and to bring their Report and Opinion to the General Assembly anent the whole; And the General Assembly having this Day heard the Report and Opinion of the foresaid Committee; And also having heard Read in their Presence, An Abbreviat and Abstract of several Errors excerpted furth of the said Apology by the foresaid Committee; And having likeways had produced in their presence the said Book it self, The General Assembly Found the same to contain a Mass of dangerous, Impious, Blasphemous and Damnable Errors; And Therefore by their Unanimous Vote did, and by these presents do, Condemn the said Book called *An Apology for M. Antonia Bourignon*. And for preventing the spreading of the said Errors therein contained, the General Assembly did by their unanimous vote, and hereby do seriously Recommend, to all Synods and Presbyteries within this National Church, and particularly to the Synods of *Aberdeen* and *Perth* to advert to, And Enquire anent the Spreading of the saids Errors, and to use all effectual Means for preventing the same; Conform to Acts of former Assemblies made against Spreading of Errors, and particularly the Act of the General Assembly Anno 1647, Intituled, *Act dischargeing the Importing, Vending or Spreading of Erroneous Books and Papers*. And moreover the General Assembly Recommend to the saids Judicatories, that in peruseing of the said Book, and enquireing anent the Spreading of the Errors therein contained, any thing found to fall under the 11th Act of the fifth Session of the Current Parliament or under any other Act of Parliament made against Blasphemy &c. Be Represented to His Majestie's Advocat to the effect the saids Laws may be put to due Execution.

X I. Sentence

X I.

*Sentence of Deposition against Dr. George Garden
in Aberdeen.*

At Edinburgh the 5th Day of March 1701. post Merid.
Sess. 15.

THE which Day, the General Assembly of this National Church, takeing to their Consideration, the Proceedings of the Commission of the Late General Assembly, Appointed for visiting the Bounds of *Angus, Mearns, Aberdeen Murray, and Ross*, And finding a Process raised by the said Commission against Doctor *George Garden* in *Aberdeen*, and a Sentence of Suspension past by them against him upon weighty Grounds, with a Reference of him for further censure to this Assembly, to which he was Cited by Order of the said Commission: All which the foresaid Sentence do at more Length bear, and the Assembly having caused call the said Doctor *George Garden* several times at the most patent Door of the Church, and he not compearing, they entered upon the serious Consideration of the particular Grounds of the said Sentence of Suspension, and of the whole Proceedings of the said Commission in that Affair, And did, *Like-as* they hereby do, Find, That he has *not* only given Great Ground to suspect his being Tainted with Dangerous and Blasphemous Opinions, in causing a certain Book Called *An Apology for M. Antonia Bourignon* to be bound, and selling the same, , and causing it be sold by others for his use, and recommending the perusal thereof, without giving a Caveat against the Errors contained therein, and that he refused to disown his being the Author of that Book, when Questioned thereupon by the said Commission; And that he Likewise declined to give a positive answer, when asked by them if he judged *M. Antonia Bourignon* to have been Divinely Inspired as she pretends, *But also* that he hath given clear and evident Proof of his being led away with the spirit of Error and very gross Delusions, and Infected with Impious, Blasphemous and Damnable Error, by declaring openly before the said Commission, That the said Apology as to the Bulk of the Book, did Represent the Great End of Christianity, which isto bring us back to the Love of God and Charity, and further Declared, that the Essentials of Christianity, are Set down in the said Book, and that the Accessories contained therein, are not contrary thereto, and further he added, that he had an high Esteem of the Writings that go under the Name

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of *M. Antonia Burignon*; because they represent the Essentials of Christian Religion, and direct us to a Christian Temper, with more Force and Vigour, than many Writings of this Age he had seen, and for her singular Sentiments, they ought not to be reckoned Heresies, for they contradict no Article of the Christian Religion, And further he subjoined that her Sentiments tended to Unite Christians in their Differences and to promote the Gospel of *Jesus Christ*, and on that account he Values them, and Heartily Embraces them, and that the Design of the Apologist in representing the Accessory Sentiments of *M. Antonia Burignon*, was to Vindicate them from the Misrepresentations of others, that the World may know what they are, yea, he had the Confidence to carry it so high before the said Commission as to say he counted it his honour to be singled out for owning the Principles of *M. Antonia Burignon* which have such a tendency to promote Christian Love and Charity, The Assembly also finds, that the Writings which go under the Name of the said *M. Antonia Burignon* are fraughted with Impious, Pernicious, and Damnable Doctrines, as they are represented in the very *Apology*, that Exhibites to the World an Epitome of them in the Fairest Dress, such as 1^{mo}. The Denying of the Permission of Sin, and the Infliction of Damnation and Vengeance for it. 2^{do}. The Ascribing to Christ a two-fold Humane Nature, one of which was produced of *Adam* before the Woman was Formed, the other born of the Virgin *Mary*. 3^{io}. The denying of the Decrees of Election and Reprobation, and the Loading of those Acts of Grace and Sovereignty with a multitude of Odious and Blasphemous Aspersions, particularly, Wickedness, Cruelty and Respect of Persons. 4^{to}. That there is a good Spirit and an Evil Spirit in the Souls of all Men before they are born. 5^{to}. That the Will of Man is Unlimited, and that there must be in Man some Infinite Quality whereby he may Unite himself to God. 6^{to}. The denying of the Doctrine of Divine *Prescience*. 7^{mo}. The Assertion of the sinful corruption of Christs Humane Nature, and a Rebellion in Christs Natural Will, to the Will of God. And 8^{va}. The Asserting a State of Perfection in this Life, and a State of Purification in the Life to come, That Generation takes place in Heaven, That there are no true Christians in the World, and several other Errors contained in the said Book, Upon which Grounds, Together with his *Contumacy* in not appearing before this Assembly, The General Assembly of this National Church after mature Deliberation, being moved with Love to the Truth of God, and Zeal for His Glory, as also an earnest desire for purging this Kirk of Error and Heresy, and every thing that is contrary to sound Doctrine,

rine, *Did* and hereby do, Ratify and Confirm the Sentence of Suspension past by the said Commission against the said Dr. George Garden, And further Did, and hereby do, In the Name and Authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Head and King of the Church, and the only Lord and Law-Giver of the same, according to the power Intrusted by Him to them, and His peremptory Command, Actually Depose the said Dr. George Garden, from the Office of the Ministry, Prohibiting and Discharging him from Exercising the same, or any part thereof in all time coming, under pain of the highest Censures of the Church, Appointing publick Intimation to be made hereof from all the Pulpits in the Synod of Aberdeen, after Sermon in the Forenoon, upon such a Lords-Day as the said Synod shall appoint.

X I I.

Approbation of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission sent by the Last Assembly to Zetland, Orkney, and Caithness.

At Edinburgh, the 5th of March 1701.

Post Meridiem Sess: 15.

THE General Assembly having this day, had reproduced before them the Register of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commissioners sent by the Late General Assembly for Visitation of the Bounds of the Presbyteries of Zetland Orkney, and Caithness, and having heard the Report and Observes of a Committee of this Assemblies own Number, appointed to Revise consider and Examine the said Register, with the answers made thereto, by the Moderator and other Members of that Commission, They were removed, and the General Assembly having seriously and maturely considered the same, And finding by the said Report, That the Actings Proceedings and Conclusions of the saids Commissioners contained in their Register now produced Subscribed by Mr. James Hart Moderator, and Mr. John Sandilands Clerk thereto, Beginning upon the eighteen Day of April last, and ending the twenty fourth day of June thereafter, consisting of 190 pages, do evidence the great pains and Diligence of the saids Commissioners, and the great Danger they were exposed to, in their Voyage by Sea, and Likewise the Fatigue they had by Land, in Travelling to accomplish the design they were sent on, and that they have proceeded Orderly and Formally in the things that came before them, according

according to their Commission and Instructions, and thereby given proof of their Wisdom, Prudence, Faithfulness and Zeal; Therefore this General Assembly by their Vote unanimously did, and hereby do Ratify and Approve the Actings, Proceedings and Conclusions of the saids Commissioners contained in their Register; And the members of the said Commission being called in, the premisses were Intimate to them, and the Moderator according to appointment gave them the Thanks of this Assembly for their good Service.

X I I I.

Approbation of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission sent by the last Assembly, to Angus, Mearns, Aberdeen, Murray and Ross.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly having this Day had Reproduced before them, the Register of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commissioners sent by the late Assembly, for Visitation of the Bounds of the Presbyteries in the Provinces of *Angus, Mearns, Aberdeen, Murray, Ross and Sutherland*, and having heard the Report and Observes of a Committee of this Assemblies own Number appointed to Revise, Consider and Examine the said Register, with the Answers made thereto by the Moderator, and other members of that Commission, They were Removed, And the General Assembly having maturely Considered the same, And finding by the said Report, that the Actings, Proceedings and Conclusions of the saids Commissioners, contained in their Register now produced, subscribed by Mr. *Patrick Cuming* Moderator and Mr. *Hugh White* Clerk thereto, beginning upon the Twelfth Day of *June* last, and ending upon the Twenty Second Day of *August* thereafter consisting of 190. pages, Do evidence much Wisdom, Prudence, Diligence, Zeal, and Faithfulness, and that the saids Commissioners have proceeded Orderly and Formally in every thing according to their Commission and Instructions; Therefore this General Assembly by their Vote Unanimously Did, and hereby do, Ratify and Approve the Actings, Proceedings and Conclusions of the saids Commissioners contained in the Register thereof, And the members of the said Commission being called in, the same was Intimate to them, and the Moderator according to appointment gave them the thanks of this Assembly for their Good Service.

Act

XIV.

Act. against Persons who shall be Irregularly Licenced or Ordained.

At Edinburgh, the 7th. Day of March 1701. ante merid. Sess. 18.

THE General Assembly, upon Report of their Committee for Overtures, Did by their Vote, and hereby do *Enact and Declare*, That any Persons who shall for hereafter, Receive either Licence or Ordination from any of the late Prelates, or any others not allowed by the Authority of the Church, shall be incapable of Ministerial Communion for the space of Three Years simpliciter, and even after that time, ay and while the Presbytry to which he shall apply be satisfied concerning his Repentance.

XV.

Commission to some Ministers and Elders, for planting Vacant Kirks and other Affairs Remitted to them.

At Edinburgh, the 8th. Day of March 1701. ante merid. Sess. 20.

THE General Assembly considering, That there are yet some Vacant Churches on the North side of *Tay*, As likeways, that there are yet several weighty Affairs, which this Assembly cannot overtake, Do therefore find it needful, that there be a Commission granted to some Ministers and Elders for planting these Vacant Churches, and doing what other Affairs shall be referred to them; And for that end do hereby Nominate Commissionate and Appoint Mr. Robert Eliot Minister at *Kinglassie*, Mr. Edward Jamison at *Monymaal*, Mr. John Anderson Principal of the Leonardine Colledge of *St. Andrews*, Mr. William Mitchell at *Dundee*, Mr. Thomas Thomson at *Oldmachar*, Mr. Hugh Anderson at *Cromarty*, Mr. Gilbert Rule Principal of the Colledge of *Edinburgh*, Mr. George Campbell Professor of Divinity there, Mr. William Crichton at *Edinburgh*, Mr. John Law there, Mr. George Hamilton there Mr. George Melarum there, Mr. David Williamson at *West-Kirk*, Mr. John Vetch

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at Westruther, Mr. John Hardy at Gordon, Mr. John Bell at Smellum, Mr. William Calderwood at Legertwood, Mr. Gabriel Semple at Jedburgh, Mr. Thomas Shields at Sanguhair, Mr. Thomas Vernor at Balmacjelland, Mr. Hugh Campbell at Mure. kirk of Kyle, Mr. Patrick Simpson at Renfrew, Mr. James Hutchison at Killallan, Mr. Duncan Campbell at Rosneth, Mr. Robert Rule at Stirling, Mr. Thomas Lewis at Henderlithen, Mr. Allan Logan at Torriburn, Mr. Andrew Thomson at Orwall, Mr. Archibald Riddel at Kirkcaldie, Mr. Andrew War-droper there, Mr. James Piscarne at Kettle, Mr. George Anderson at Mr. Thomas Forrester Principal of the New Colledge of St. Andrews, Mr. James Hadow Professor of Divinity there, Mr. John Anderson Junior at St. Andrews, Mr. Samuel Johnston at Dundee, Mr. John Ferguson at Aberbrothick, Mr. James Ramsay at Bendochie, Mr. Francis Melwill at Arburthnet, Mr. James Osburne Professor of Theologie at Aberdeen, Mr. Thomas Blackwall there, Mr. Andrew Guthrie at Peterhead, Mr. Alexander Forbes at Dyck, Mr. James Thomson at Elgine, Mr. John Urquhart at Urquhart, Mr. Hugh Monroe at Tarbat, Mr. Walter Denoon at Golspie, Mr. William Innes at Thurso, Mr. James Graham, at Holm, Mr. William Binning at Tingwall, Mr. Thomas Wilkie at Cannongate, Mr. David Blair at Edinburgh, Mr. George Andrews there, Mr. James Hart at Rattho, Mr. George Barclay at Uphall, Mr. Thomas Miller at Kirklistoun, Mr. William Burnet at Falkirk, Mr. James Thomson at Peebles, Mr. Robert Livingstone at Biggar, Mr. John Sandilands at Dolphingtoun, Mr. Patrick Cuming at Ormiston, Mr. William Traill at Borthwick, Mr. Matthew Selkirk at Chrichton, Mr. David Walker at Temple, Mr. James Clerk at Dirletoun, Mr. Matthew Reid at North-Berwick, Mr. Andrew Brown at Spot, Mr. George Turnbull at Tynninghame, Mr. Archibald Borthwick at Greenlaw, Mr. James Ramsay at Eyemouth, Mr. John Pow at Lennel, Mr. John Goudy at Spronstoun, Mr. John Glen at Stichel, Mr. George Johnston at Ersletoun, Mr. Alexander Colden at Oxnam, Mr. Robert Wilson at Melross, Mr. Hugh Craig at Gallasbeils, Mr. William Vetch at Drumfrees, Mr. Alexander Robertson at Tinnel, Mr. James Elder at Kjer, Mr. Patrick Home at Kirkmichael, Mr. George Mullikine at Moffat, Mr. James Armstrong at Canabee, Mr. Robert Rowan at Penninghame, Mr. Andrew Cameron at Kircubright, Mr. Alexander Telfer at Rerrick, Mr. Robert Colvil at Glenluc, Mr. Andrew Rodger at Galstoun, Mr. Henry Osburn at Torbolstoun, Mr. James Gilchrist at Kirkmichael, Mr. Matthew Baird at Monkstoun, Mr. Patrick Vernor at Irvine, Mr. John Glasgow at Kilbirny, Mr. Robert Wyllie at Hamiltoun, Mr. John Ore at Bothwell, Mr. Thomas Lining at Lesmehago, Mr. John Scot at Carlake, Mr. James Hay at Kilsyth, Mr. John Pittigrew at Govan, Mr. John Stir-line

line at Greenock, Mr. John Ritchy at Old-Kilpatrick, Mr. Daniel Campbell at Kilmichael of Glassery, Mr. Daniel McKay at Inverary, Mr. Daniel McLaurie at Kilsinnen, Mr. John Darroch at Craignish, Mr. Dougal Campbell at Southend, Mr. John Morison at Glenalg, Mr. Samuel Nairn at Errol, Mr. John Tullidolph at Dumbarnie, Mr. Alexander Glass at Kincleven, Mr. William Spence at Fossoway, Mr. William Chalmers at Monzy, Mr. John Forrester at Stirling, Mr. Hugh White at Larbert, Mr. Alexander Douglass at Logy, Mr. Michael Potter at Dumblane Ministers. George Earl of Melvil Lord President of the Council, George Earl of Sutherland, John Earl of Tullibardine, John Earl of Rutherglen, William Lord Forbes, Robert Lord Burleigh, James Master of Carmichael, Sir Hugh Dalrymple of Northberwick Lord President of the Session, Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees His Majesties Advocat, Adam Cockburn of Ormiston Lord Thesaurer Depute, Sir Coline Campbell of Aberuchel, Sir John Hamilton of Halcraig, Sir David Home of Crossrig, three of the Senators of the Colledge of Justice, Mr. John Campbell Brother to the Earl of Argyle, Mr. Francis Montgomery of Giffane Brother to the Earl of Eglington, Lieutenant Colonel John Erskine Governour of Dumbarton Castle, Sir John Swintoun of that Ilk, Sir John Clerk of Pennycook, Sir William Baird of Newbaith, Sir Andrew Kennedy of Cloburn, Sir David Stewart of Kirkfield, Sir William Denholm of Westbeilds, William Baillie of Lamingtoun, James Brody of that Ilk, George Dundass of that Ilk, Adam Drummond of Meggins, Duncan Forbes of Coloden, William Fullertoun of that Ilk, James Pringle of Buckholme, Mr. James Boswell of Auchinleck Advocat, Captain John Erskine, Sir Patrick Johnston Lord Provost of Edinburgh, John Scrimzeour of Kirkton Provost of Dundee, John Allardice Provost of Abredeen, John Anderson of Dowhil Provost of Glasgow, Robert Arbuthnot late Provost of Montrose, Sir James McLurg Dean of Gild of Edinburgh, Gideon Eliot Deacon Conveener there, and Mr. Robert Cook Advocat, Ruling Elders; To be Commissioners of the General Assembly to the Effect before and aftermentioned, with full Power and Commission to the saids Persons or their Quorum, which is hereby Declared to be any Fifteen of the saids Commissioners, whereof Nine are always to be Ministers To meet and Conveen within the Assembly-House at Edinburgh, the first day after the Dissolution of this Assembly at Ten Hours in the Forenoon, and afterwards to meet the first Wednesdays of June, September, December, and first Twesday of March, and oftner where and when they shall think Needful and Convenient, with full Power to the said Commission to chuse their own Moderator. And sicklike The General Assembly fully Empowers and Authorizes the saids Commissioners or their Quorum to Consider, Cognosce, and Finally

nally Determine as they shall see cause, in everything contained in, and conform to the Instructions given them by this Assembly, as Fully and Freely as if the same were in these presents at full length Insert and Set Down, As also to Consider, Cognosce and Finally Determine in all References, Appeals, and other matters particularly referred to them by any order of this Assembly, all which is holden as herein exprest; And the General Assembly doth hereby prohibite and Discharge the saids Commissioners to meddle in any other matters than what is herein contained; Declaring also, That in and for their Actings, they shall be comprable to, and censuerable by the next ensueing General Assembly of this Church. And lastly, Declares, that this Commission shall continue until the meering of the next General Assembly.

XVI.

Instructions by the General Assembly to their Commission.

Eadem Sessione.

1. **T**HAT this Commission, as often as they shall see cause, apply to the Government, or any Magistrat, for their Countenancing of, and concurring with the Judicatories of the Church, in what the Law allows, and for putting the Laws in Execution against Prophaneness, Regulating the Poor by providing Maintainance, and Labour for them, and particularly anent settleing Vacant Congregations, and Redressing any Greivances which may fall out.
2. That when any of the Ministers who served under the late Prelacy, whose Lives and Doctrines may render them useful to this Church, do apply for Reception into a share of the Government of the Church, The General Assembly do Impower and Recommend to their Commission to receive them, according to the 13 Parag. of the 16th Act of the General Assembly Anno 1697: And that the said Commission be careful to get due Information from the Presbyteries where the said person applying does, or did officiat, and for the time resides.
3. That this Commission in disposal of His Majestie's Gifts to this Church, do particularly take care, that the Encouragement granted by the General Assembly Anno 1699. to Probationers who are to go North to Preach be rendered effectual; and that they cause defray the Extraordinary Charges that several Ministers of the North have been at, in carrying on the planting of Churches, and other publick Affairs of the Church there.

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4. The said Commission is to 'cognosce, and finally determine in all References already made, or to be made to them by this Assembly, and in all References and Appeals for Transporting Ministers to the North, which shall be orderly brought before them, according to the Overtures made thereanent by the General Assembly, anno 1699.

5. This Commission is also to correspond with the State anent Fasts and Thanksgivings, as occasion requires, and to specify the Causes thereof.

6. This Commission is to give advice and assistance to any Synod or Presbytery in difficult cases, as they shall be applyed unto by them for that effect: As also this Commission is Impowered to proceed according to the 7th. Act of the General Assembly 1700. made in favours of the Presbyteries of *Caithness, Orkney, and Zetland.*

7. This Commission is Impowered to enquire how Ministers transported by former Assemblies and their Commissions, or by this General Assembly and their Commission have obeyed, or shall obey, and in case of disobedience; that they suspend the disobedient persons for Three Moneths, and in case they do not obey after these Three Moneths are elapsed, that then they be deposed *simpliciter*, and this particularly to be applyed in the case of Mr. *David Pitcairn* formerly Transported from *Creich* to *Forresse*, if he disobey.

8. This Commission is to give all due Encouragement and Assistance to any Proposals may be made to them, anent Endeavours for Reformation of Manners, and for the effectual curbing of Prophanity; and that they apply in a competent manner to the Government, for that end.

9. This Commission or their Moderator in the Intervals of the Commission, are empowered to receive Calls Legally proceeded in, and to transmit the same to the Respective Presbyteries interested, And in case of References or Appeals to the said Commission, That they proceed and finally determine therein, according to the former Acts of Assemblies for expediting Transportations to the North.

XVII.

Act for rendering effectual the Supplies of the North.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly taking to their Consideration, the 24. Act of the General Assembly 1700; For rendering Effectual the Supplies of the North, Do declare the

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samen to stand still in full force, and Refers to the Commission to see to the Observation thereof.

XVII.

Act against Intruders into Kirks.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly Appoints Presbyteries to send in to the Commission an Account of such Ministers or Preachers as Intrude into Parishes, That Application may be made to the Government for removing them according to Law.

XIX.

Recommendation anent the more frequent Administration of the Lords Supper.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly Recommends to Presbyteries to take Care that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper be more frequently Administrat within their Bounds, and that the Number of Ministers to serve thereat be restricted, So that neighbouring Churches be not thereby cast desolate on the Lords Day.

XX.

Act against Abuses at Lykewakes, Penny-Brydalls, and Promiscuous Danceing.

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do Revive the Act of the General Assembly 1645: Against Lykewakes, as also the Act of the said Assembly for restraining Abuses at Penny-Brydalls, and Likewise the Act of the General Assembly anno 1649: Dischargeing promiscuous Danceing, and Appoints the saids Acts to be Read in Churches before the Congregation, and that Synods enquire at Presbyteries concerning their Diligence anent the Observation of the saids Acts, and Recommends to Presbyteries to have their Thoughts upon what further may be necessary for

for Suppressing and Preventing Abuses at such Occasions, and give their Opinion thereanent to the next General Assembly.

XXI.

OVERTURES, Transmitted by the General Assembly, Held in the Year 1701; To the several Presbyteries, within this National Church; That they may Consider the same, and send their Opinion thereanent in Write to the next General Assembly, who may pass the same in Acts, if the more General Opinion of this Church agree thereunto.

1 Anent Scandalous Persons turning Popish.

THAT in regaird some Persons when challenged for Scandal turn Popish, or pretend to do so, to evite Church-Censure, Therefore it be Enacted that the Church proceed to the Censure of Excommunication against such, after all due pains taken to Reclaim them prove ineffectual, and this to be intimate in all Churches within the Kingdom.

2 Anent Protestants Marrying Papists.

THAT in Regaird Protestants Marrying with Persons of a different Religion is against the Word of God, and of very dangerous Consequence if not timeously prevented, Therefore that the General Assembly Appoint Inferiour Judicatories, to take special Notice of such, and of Parents and Others who give Consent to such Marriages, and proceed against them even to the highest Censure of the Church, and that publick Intimation of the Premisses, be made in all the Churches within the Kingdom.

3 Anent Excommunication.

THAT Least the Sentence of Excommunication be despised, and that Persons may not converse with such, as if they were not Excommunicat: Therefore it be enacted That the Sentence of Excommunication being first Intimate through all the Churches within

the Presbytery where the said Sentence was pronounced if the Person continue Obstinate, That then the Presbytery give an account thereof to the Synod, who are to appoint the like Intimation to be made in all the Churches within their Bounds, and if notwithstanding of this, and other due means used to Reclaim them, they shall continue Obstinate, In that case an account of their Names, and Sentence past against them be brought by the Synod to the General Assembly, that they may appoint Intimation thereof to be made through all the Churches of the Nation, And that at all the foresaid respective Intimations, Ministers take occasion to hold forth the sad state and condition of Excommunicat Persons, and to Inform People how to carry towards them.

4. *Anent Irregular Absolving of Scandalous persons.*

That in Regard some of the Episcopal Perswasion, who have no Pastoral Relation to any Congregation, take upon them to Absolve in corners Persons under Publick Scandal, and that others of them who possess Churches take upon them to Absolve Persons in other Congregations, Therefore it be Enacted that the Kirk Session and Presbytery within whole Bounds the foresaid Scandalous Persons have their Residence, Declare that Persons in the foresaid Circumstances are still lying under Scandal, and that they proceed against them accordingly, and that the Minister of what Perswasion soever who so Absolveth, be Censured by the Presbytery of the Bounds.

5. *Anent Students passing Tryals.*

That more strict notice be taken of such as pass their Tryals in order to the Ministry, and for that end. 1^{mo}. That it be Recommended to Presbyteries by the General Assembly, That they observe the Act of the General Assembly anent the Age of such. 2^{do}. That more pains be taken to enquire into the Evidences of their Piety. 3^{tio}. That the Catechetick Tryals be not perfunctoriously gone about, and that some Ministers be appointed to Examine them upon the several heads of Divinity, and the Government of the Church, and to know what reason they can give for their Faith and Sentiments in these matters, and how they can Answer some Principal Objections, and that this be not done hastily, but that a particular competent time be allowed for that purpose. 4^{to}. That there be one Tryal also given to Probationers of their Gifts as to Lecturing.

6. *Against*

6. *Against Prophaneness with a Reference to the Commission.*

That for the more Effectual Restraining Prophaneness and Immorality, and exact Execution of the Laws against them, It be Recommended to the Commission to Appoint some of their Number with the Clerk, to draw out an Abstract of all Acts of Assemblies to that purpose, both before and since the Revolution, which being Revised and Approven by the whole Commission at their Quarterly meeting in June, may by them be ordered to be Printed together with the abstract of the Acts of Parliament against Prophaneness in a small Volume, and each Presbytry enjoyned twice a year at least, at diets appointed *in hunc effectum* to read these, and enquire at each Minister what is done by him for the Execution thereof, and every Synod take a strict account of Presbyteries their Diligence and Faithfulness therein: And likeways that it be Recommended to all Presbyteries to think seriously what may be further needful for Restraining of Wickedness, and Advancement of Piety, and the Kingdom of Christ in the Nation, and send in their Overtures concerning the same to the next Assembly, who may take these to their serious consideration, and make this their cheif and first Work. The General Assembly having heard the abovementioned Overture, Do Transmit the same to the several Presbyteries, and in the mean time Recommend to their Commission to see to the drawing out of an Abstract of the Acts of Assembly and Parliament as is abovementioned.

X X I I.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is to be held at *Edinburgh* the *sixth* day of *March* in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Two.

The Assembly being Closed the Members were Dismissed with Prayer Singing the 132. Psalm, from the 11th Verse to the Close, And pronouncing of the Blessing.

Collected and Extracted from the Records
of the General Assembly, By me

Dav. Dundas C^{ls}.

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